

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1855.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February  
26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.  
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1855.

PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1855.

or written upon, and the name of the bank from which it purports to have issued, and the date and number of the bill so stamped or written upon, and the time when stamped and written upon by him. CHAP. 181.

SECT. 5. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 181.

An act for the admission of interested witnesses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECT. 1. No person offered as a witness shall be excluded by reason of his interest in the event of the action, but his interest may be proved to affect his credibility. Testimony of interested witnesses admissible.

SECT. 2. The above section shall not apply to a party to the action, nor to any person for whose immediate benefit it is prosecuted or defended. —parties to actions excepted.

SECT. 3. When an assignor of a thing in action or contract is examined as a witness, on behalf of any person deriving title through or from him, the adverse party may offer himself as a witness to the same matter in his own behalf and shall be so received; but such assignor shall not be admitted to be examined in behalf of any person deriving title through or from him against an assignee or an executor or administrator, unless the other party to such contract or thing in action whom the defendant, or plaintiff represents, is living and his testimony can be procured for such examination. —of assignor admissible in certain cases.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 182.

An act further to protect personal liberty.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECT. 1. No judge of any court in this state and no justice of the peace shall hereafter take cognizance of, or grant a certificate in cases arising under the act of congress, passed September eighteen, Claims for fugitive slaves not cognizable.

CHAP. 183. eighteen hundred and fifty, or the act to which that was additional, entitled "An act respecting fugitives from justice," to any person who claims any other person as a fugitive slave, within the jurisdiction of this state.

Arrest of,
prohibited.

SECT. 2. No sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, constable, jailor or other officer of this state, in his official capacity, shall hereafter arrest or detain, or aid in arresting or detaining in any prison or building belonging to this state, or any county, city or town thereof, of any person by reason of his being claimed as a fugitive slave.

Offense, penalty
for.

SECT. 3. Any justice of the peace, sheriff, deputy sheriff, coroner, constable or jailor, who shall in his official capacity directly or indirectly, offend against the provisions of this act, or aid and abet any person claiming any other person as a fugitive slave in the arrest and detention of such person so claimed as a fugitive slave, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars for every such offense, to the use of the county where said offense is committed, or shall be subject to imprisonment not exceeding one year in the county jail.

Officers of the
United States
not obstructed
in the discharge
of their duty.

SECT. 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to hinder or obstruct the marshal of the United States, his deputy or any officer of the United States from executing or enforcing the laws of the United States referred to in the first section of this act.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 183.

An act relating to criminal proceedings and to prevent unnecessary costs to the state.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

In complaints on
oath, justices of
the peace and
judges of police
courts may sum-
mon witnesses
to testify thereto.

SECT. 1. In all cases when a complaint on oath shall in writing be made to any justice of the peace, or judge of any police or municipal court within this state, and the complainant shall therein complain that any offense has been committed, or that he has reason to believe and does believe that any offense against the laws of this state has been committed by any person or persons, and shall therein pray that a warrant in due form of law may be issued against the person or persons so complained against, such justice of the peace, or judge, shall have power and authority before issuing any such warrant, to issue a summons in due form of law in behalf of the state, requiring any person or persons who may be supposed to have any knowledge touching the truth of any such complaint to